

PUBLIC NOTICE

696 Virginia Road Concord, MA 01742-2751 **Date: June 30, 2009**

Comment Period Ends: July 30,2009 File Number: NAE-2008-1582

In Reply Refer To: Susan K. Lee

Or by e-mail: susan.k.lee@usace.army.mil

The District Engineer has received a permit application from the applicant below to conduct work in waters of the United States as described below.

APPLICANT: Town of Fairfield, Sullivan Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Road, Fairfield, CT 06824

ACTIVITY: The Town of Fairfield proposes to place fill/grade approximately 2,233 SF of wetlands/waters areas (temporary and permanent impacts) of the Mill River in association with the replacement of the existing Mill Plain Road Bridge over the Mill River in Fairfield, CT. A detailed description and plans depicting the proposed activity are attached.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK:

This work is proposed in the Mill River and adjacent wetlands at the Mill Plain Road crossing over the Mill River in Fairfield, CT. The project location on the USGS WESTPORT, CONN. Quadrangle sheet is at Lat. 41° 10' 25" Long. 73° 16' 18".

AUTHORITY

Permits	are	rec	uired	pursuant	to:

Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899

X Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act).

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which may reasonably accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment

CENAE-R FILE NO. NAE-2008-1582

and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Where the activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of disposing it in ocean waters, the evaluation of the impact of the activity in the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act, and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 as amended.

Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that little likelihood exists for the proposed work to impinge upon properties with cultural or Native American significance, or listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, no further consideration of the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, is necessary. This determination is based upon one or more of the following:

- a. The permit area has been extensively modified by previous work.
- b. The permit area has been recently created.
- c. The proposed activity is of limited nature and scope.
- d. Review of the latest published version of the National Register shows that no presence of registered properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are in the permit area or general vicinity.
- e. Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer(s)

The States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island have approved **Coastal Zone Management Programs**. Where applicable the applicant states that any proposed activity will comply with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved Coastal Zone Management Program. By this Public Notice, we are requesting the State concurrence or objection to the applicant's consistency statement.

The following authorizations have been applied for, or have been or will be obtained:

- (X) Permit, License or Assent from State.
- (X) Permit from Local Wetland Agency or Conservation Commission.
- (X) Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

In order to properly evaluate the proposal, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. **Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date.** If you have any questions, please contact Susan Lee at (978) 318-8494, or (800) 343-4789, or (800) 362-4367 if calling from within Massachusetts.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining public comments when that is the best means for understanding a wide variety of concerns from a diverse segment of the public.

CENAE-R FILE NO. NAE-2008-1582

The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice. All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in an effort to reach an understanding.

For more information on the New England District Corps of Engineers programs, visit our website at http://www.nae.usace.army.mil.

THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.

Robert J. DeSista

Chief, Permits and Enforcement Branch

Regulatory Division

If you would prefer not to continue receiving Public Notices, please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at (978) 318-8058 or e-mail her at bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil. You may also check here () and return this portion of the Public Notice to: Bettina Chaisson, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.

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ADDRESS:				 	
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CENAE-R FILE NO. NAE-2008-1582

PROPOSED WORK AND PURPOSE

The work includes the discharge of dredged and/or fill material in wetlands/waters areas in association with the on-line replacement of two existing bridge crossings (Bridge no. 04204 and Bridge No. 04205) which carry Mill Plain Road over the Mill River in Fairfield, CT. The existing Mill Plain Road Bridge crossing over the Mill River consists of two crossings separated by a short roadway section on an island in the middle of the river. The replacement will be a new 2-span structure with a concrete center pier located on the island. Temporary sheet pile cofferdams will be installed in the river to facilitate removal of existing bridge structures and construction of the new bridge substructure. An existing center pier located in the river will be removed. The new bridge will be 45 feet wide to match the existing approach roadway widths, and will include a 5 feet wide sidewalk on the upstream side to link with the existing sidewalks on the approaches to the bridge.

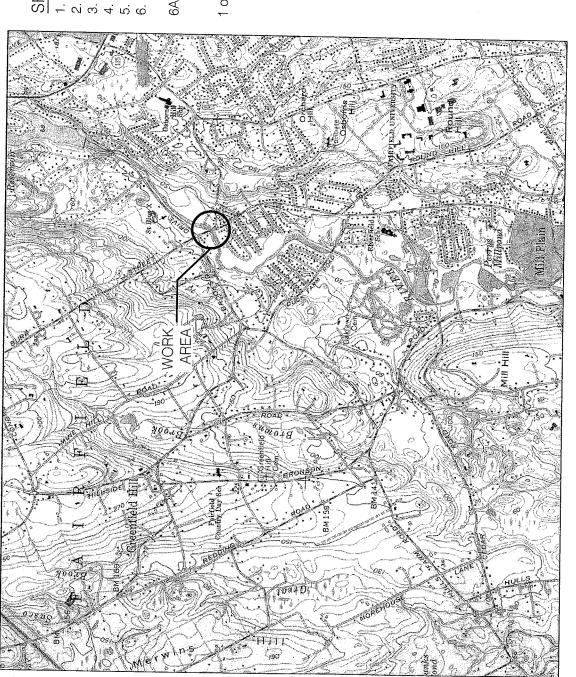
Wetland/water fill areas are associated with grading at the new abutments, riprap armouring on the perimeter of the island, a pre-formed scour hole feature, and riprap armouring and J-hook features along the northerly shoreline downstream of the bridge for fisheries enhancement. The project includes vegetative plantings along the northerly shoreline upstream of the bridge.

The purpose of the work is bridge maintenance to provide safe vehicle passage over the Mill River. The existing bridges have been determined to be functionally obsolete, and in need of replacement.

The work is described and shown on the attached plans entitled: "RECONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE NO. 04204 AND 04205", on eight (8) sheets (1-6 and 6A of 6, 1 of 1).

MITIGATION

The project replaces two existing deteriorating bridges at the same location over the Mill River. Impacts to wetlands/waters have been avoided and minimized to the extent practicable. Habitat and fisheries enhancement features consisting of vegetative plantings and J-hook rock vanes along the northerly shoreline upstream and downstream, respectively, of the bridge are proposed to mitigate impacts of this project. Areas currently occupied by existing bridge members will be restored to riverbed. The existing roadway section on the island will also be removed.



- VICINITY MAP/INDEX
- PROPOSED SITE CONDITIONS EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS
- WETLAND CROSS SECTION
- WETLAND PLAN
- EROSION CONTROL PLAN/
 - DETAILS
- STAGING AND STORAGE OF EQUIPMENT LOCATION PLAN

1 of 1 MITIGATION PLAN

RECONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE NO. 04204 AND 04205 VICINITY MAP / INDEX

N4107.5-W7315/7.5

WESTPORT, CONN.

1960 PHOTOREVISED 1971

SCALE: 1: 24,000

AT: MILL PLAIN ROAD OVER MILL RIVER COUNTY: FAIRFIELD FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT

2321 Whitney / Hamden, CT 06

APPLICATION BY: TOWN OF FAIRFIELD

JOB NO. 210610019 PROJ. NO. 50-H043

APRIL 2008 SHEET

DATE: Revised March 2009

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